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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Plaintiff,

v.

OMAROSA MANIGAULT NEWMAN,

Defendant.

Case No.:

COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT

1. This is an action brought pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 101 *et seq.* (2006), ("EIGA"), by the United States of America against Omarosa Manigault Newman

for civil penalties for knowingly and willfully failing to file the required public financial disclosure report after her employment terminated with the Executive Office of the President.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 4. § 104(a) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345.
 - 3. Venue is proper pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 4. § 104(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff is the United States of America.
- 5. Defendant Omarosa Manigault Newman is the former Director of Communications for the Office of Public Liaison in the White House, within the Executive Office of the President.

STATUTORY BACKGROUND

- 6. The EIGA requires individuals who occupy covered positions to file a final public financial disclosure report on or before the thirtieth day after leaving their position, unless they have accepted another covered position. 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 101(e).
- 7. Among the positions covered by section 101 are "employee[s] in the [E]xecutive [B]ranch" whose "basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule." 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 101(f)(3).
- 8. Section 104(a) of the EIGA authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action in federal district court against any individual "who knowingly and willfully fails to file or report any information that such individual is required to report" under the EIGA. 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 104(a).

9. The EIGA provides that the court may assess a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 against an individual who knowingly and willfully fails to file a public financial disclosure report required under the EIGA. *See* 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 104(a)(1).

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 10. Beginning January 20, 2017, Ms. Manigault Newman was the Director of Communications in the Office of Public Liaison in the White House, a position within the Executive Branch.
- 11. Her salary was greater than 120 percent of \$103,672, which was the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule in 2017. *See* 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 101(f)(3); United States Office of Personnel Management, Salary Table 2017-GS, effective January 2017, *available at* https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/pdf/2017/GS.pdf.
- 12. Ms. Manigault Newman filed the new entrant financial disclosure report required under the EIGA.
- 13. On or before December 19, 2017, Ms. Manigault Newman received a post-government employment briefing in which she was advised of her obligation under the EIGA to file a termination financial disclosure report by January 18, 2018.
- 14. Ms. Manigault Newman's employment as Director of Communications in the Office of Public Liaison in the White House terminated effective December 19, 2017.
- 15. Ms. Manigault Newman did not accept another government position covered by section 101 of the EIGA after the termination of her employment with the White House.
- 16. On December 29, 2017, an ethics attorney in the White House Counsel's Office sent Ms. Manigault Newman an email reminding her of her obligation to file her termination financial

disclosure report by January 18, 2018. Although the email address used was the personal email address provided by Ms. Manigault Newman to the White House Counsel's Office (hereinafter "provided email address"), she did not respond.

- 17. On January 3, 2018, an ethics attorney in the White House Counsel's Office sent Ms. Manigault Newman another email to the provided email address reminding her of her obligation to file her termination financial disclosure report by January 18, 2018. The email included as an attachment her post-government employment memorandum, which memorialized the briefing that Ms. Manigault Newman received before leaving the White House.
- 18. On January 12, 2018, an ethics attorney in the White House Counsel's Office sent Ms. Manigault Newman an email to the provided email address asking whether she had any questions regarding filing her termination financial disclosure report.
- 19. On January 18, 2018, Ms. Manigault Newman failed to file the required termination financial disclosure report due that date.
- 20. The following day, an ethics attorney in the White House Counsel's Office sent Ms. Manigault Newman an email to the provided email address advising her that her termination financial disclosure report was overdue and that she might be assessed a \$200 late filing fee.
- 21. On February 6, 2018, an ethics attorney in the White House Counsel's Office sent Ms. Manigault Newman another email to the provided email address and to a second email address for Ms. Manigault Newman asking whether she had any questions regarding filing her termination financial disclosure report.
- 22. On March 26, 2018, an ethics attorney in the White House Counsel's Office sent Ms. Manigault Newman another email to the provided email address and to the second email address reminding her that her termination financial disclosure report was past due. This time, shortly

after the email was sent, Ms. Manigault Newman responded by calling the ethics attorney to discuss the overdue termination financial disclosure report.

- 23. Later that day, on March 26, 2018, Stefan Passantino, then-Deputy Counsel to the President, sent Ms. Manigault Newman an email to the provided email address and to the second email address reminding her of her obligation to file her termination financial disclosure report.

 Ms. Manigault Newman responded to Mr. Passantino's email that same day using the provided email address but thereafter did not file the overdue termination financial disclosure report.
- 24. Pursuant to the regulations of the Executive Office of the Government Ethics, 5 C.F.R. § 2634.701, the Executive Office of the President referred this matter to the Department of Justice for commencement of an action authorized by 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 104(a), and the action was authorized on March 17, 2019.

COUNT I

- 25. Plaintiff repeats and realleges Paragraphs 1 through 24 as if fully stated herein.
- 26. Ms. Manigault Newman has been aware since on or before December 19, 2017 that she was subject to the EIGA and was required to file a termination financial disclosure report within thirty days of the termination of her employment within the Executive Branch.
- 27. White House ethics counsel repeatedly informed Ms. Manigault Newman both orally and in writing of her obligation to file her termination financial disclosure report.
- 28. Notwithstanding the numerous attempts to obtain her compliance, Ms. Manigault Newman has not filed her termination financial disclosure report even though her employment within the Executive Branch ended, as of this filing, more than 180 days ago.

29. Ms. Manigault Newman violated the Ethics in Government Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 104, by knowingly and willfully failing to file her termination financial disclosure report within the time required by the EIGA.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff the United States of America prays that this Court issue a decision and order:

- (1) Requiring Ms. Manigault Newman to file her termination financial disclosure report;
- (2) Assessing a civil penalty under Count I of up to \$50,000; and
- (3) Granting Plaintiff such further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 25, 2019 Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT Assistant Attorney General

JAMES J. GILLIGAN Acting Director

JACQUELINE COLEMAN SNEAD Assistant Branch Director

/s/ Ashley A. Cheung
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

Case 1:19-cv-01868 Document 1-1 Filed 06/25/19 Page 1 of 2 CIVIL COVER SHEET

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O G. Habeas Corpus/ 2255 530 Habeas Corpus – General 510 Motion/Vacate Sentence 463 Habeas Corpus – Alien Detainee	O H. Employment Discrimination 442 Civil Rights – Employment (criteria: race, gender/sex, national origin, discrimination, disability, age, religion, retaliation)	Sys Freedom of Information Act Sys Other Statutory Actions (if Privacy Act)	J. Student Loan 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (excluding veterans)			
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 ■ K. Labor/ERISA (non-employment) ■ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act ■ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations ■ 740 Labor Railway Act ■ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act ■ 790 Other Labor Litigation ■ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act 	□ L. Other Civil Rights (non-employment) □ 441 Voting (if not Voting Rights Act) □ 443 Housing/Accommodations □ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 445 Americans w/Disabilities – Employment □ 446 Americans w/Disabilities – Other □ 448 Education	M. Contract 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholder's Suits 190 Other Contracts 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise	N. Three-Judge Court 441 Civil Rights – Voting (if Voting Rights Act)			
V. ORIGIN 1 Original Proceeding From State Court Cour						
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.) Civil penalty action pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 4 § 101 et seq. (2006)						
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F R C P 23 DEMAND JU	Check Y RY DEMAND: YES	ES only if demanded in complaint			
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instruction) YES	NO K If yes, p.	lease complete related case form			
DATE: 6/25/19	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF REC	CORD /s/ Ashley A	A. Cheung			

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET JS-44 Authority for Civil Cover Sheet

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and services of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. Listed below are tips for completing the civil cover sheet. These tips coincide with the Roman Numerals on the cover sheet.

- I. COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF/DEFENDANT (b) County of residence: Use 11001 to indicate plaintiff if resident of Washington, DC, 88888 if plaintiff is resident of United States but not Washington, DC, and 99999 if plaintiff is outside the United States.
- III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES: This section is completed <u>only</u> if diversity of citizenship was selected as the Basis of Jurisdiction under Section II.
- IV. CASE ASSIGNMENT AND NATURE OF SUIT: The assignment of a judge to your case will depend on the category you select that best represents the <u>primary</u> cause of action found in your complaint. You may select only <u>one</u> category. You <u>must</u> also select <u>one</u> corresponding nature of suit found under the category of the case.
- VI. CAUSE OF ACTION: Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of the primary cause.
- VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY: If you indicated that there is a related case, you must complete a related case form, which may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Because of the need for accurate and complete information, you should ensure the accuracy of the information provided prior to signing the form.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of Columbia					
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)))				
Plaintiff(s)	,				
V.	Civil Action No. 19-cv-1868				
OMAROSA MANIGAULT NEWMAN)))				
)				
SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION					
To: (Defendant's name and address) Ms. Omarosa Manigault Ne 3796 Biggin Church Road N Jacksonville, Florida 32224 12620 Beach Boulevard, S Jacksonville, FL 32246	N				
A lawsuit has been filed against you.					
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Ashley A. Cheung United States Department of Justice 1100 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005					
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be a You also must file your answer or motion with the court.	entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.				
	ANGELA D. CAESAR, CLERK OF COURT				
Date:					
	Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk				

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. 19-cv-1868

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

was ra		ne of individual and title, if any)							
was re	ceived by me on (date)								
	☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at (place)								
		on (date)		; or					
	☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with (name)								
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there								
	on (date)	, and mailed a copy	to the individual's last known address; or						
	☐ I served the summons on (name of individual) designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)								
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	☐ Other (specify):								
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00					
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this informa	tion is true.						
Date:									
			Server's signature						
			Printed name and title						
			Server's address						

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: